

Page 2, line 29, insert as a section heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION--

Page 5, line 5, amend the paragraph as follows:

*A<sup>2</sup>*  
*Sub A<sup>3</sup>*

--Fig. 4 shows with a schematic illustration the principle of a welding jig 10 used for the lower drum assembly procedure according to the present invention. The welding jig 10 essentially comprises a holder 11 and a shaft 12. The shaft 12 is similar to drum's driving shaft but, in this case, used as a facility to arrange lower drum 1 and drum base 2 in connection with a drum base fixation jig (not shown). As it is illustrated by means of arrows 13a, 13b the drum base fixation jig engages with the drum base 2 in a defined manner in order to fit and press drum base 2 and lower drum 1 together before joining them together by welding due to the respective application of the laser beam 8: According to the method "through-welding", the laser beam 8, labeled (Through) in Fig. 4, is applied to the chassis mounting surface of drum base 2 and is approximately square to the surface of the drum base 2, as depicted in Fig. 4. According to the "side-welding" method, laser beam 8, labeled (Side) in Fig. 4, is radially applied as depicted. In Fig. 4 drum base 2 is shown with region 9 of reduced thickness when laser beam 8 is used for "through-welding".--

In the claims:

Page 13, line 1, amend follows:

--What is claimed is: --

Cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

*Sub A<sup>2</sup>* Amend the claims as follows:

*A<sup>3</sup>*

1. (Amended) Rotary drum for a tape recorder for recording and/or reproducing signals according to helical scan system, comprising:

a rotary upper drum;

a stationary lower drum for mounting said rotary upper drum; and,

a drum base for mounting said stationary lower drum to form an assembly having a tilt angle with regard to a tape deck chassis plane, wherein said drum base and said lower drum are welded together at an abutting area of the drum base and the lower drum.